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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. - 4. (Cancelled)
5. (Currently amended) An extended release tablet comprising a plurality of granules consisting of potassium chloride crystals between about 20 to about 60 mesh, and a continuous coating on the crystals, the coating consisting of a single thermoplastic cellulose ether.
6. (Original) The tablet of claim 5, wherein the granules are essentially free of surfactants or processing aids and agents.
7. (Original) The tablet of claim 5, wherein the potassium chloride crystals comprise approximately 75.3% by weight based on the total weight of the tablet.
8. (Original) The tablet of claim 5, wherein the thermoplastic cellulose ether is ethylcellulose.
9. (Original) The tablet of claim 8, wherein ethylcellulose comprises approximately 15.5% by weight based on the total weight of the tablet.
10. (Original) The tablet of claim 5, wherein the tablet contains about 10 mEq to about 20 mEq potassium provided by the potassium chloride crystals.
11. (Original) The tablet of claim 5, wherein the tablet contains 10 mEq potassium, 15 mEq potassium, or 20 mEq potassium provided by the potassium chloride crystals.
12. (Previously presented) A pharmaceutical dosage unit in tablet form comprising a plurality of granules having an internal core of potassium chloride between about 20 to about 60 mesh and a continuous external coating consisting of ethylcellulose, wherein the granules are essentially free of surfactants or processing aids and agents.
13. (Original) The tablet of claim 12, wherein the core of potassium chloride comprises approximately 75.3% by weight based on the total weight of said tablet.

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14. (Original) The tablet of claim 12, wherein the ethylcellulose comprises approximately 15.5% by weight based on the total weight of said tablet.
15. (Original) The tablet of claim 12, wherein the tablet contains about 10 mEq to about 20 mEq potassium provided by the potassium chloride.
16. (Original) The tablet of claim 12, wherein the tablet contains 10 mEq potassium, 15 mEq potassium, or 20 mEq potassium provided by the potassium chloride.
17. (Original) A process to produce ethylcellulose-coated potassium chloride granules comprising the steps of:
 - i) forming a fluidized bed of potassium chloride crystals at a dew point of about 10-20° C,
 - ii) spraying the fluidized crystals with a mixture consisting of ethylcellulose, alcohol and water sufficient to coat the crystals, and
 - iii) drying the coated crystals to remove the water and alcohol to provide coated potassium chloride granules.
18. (Original) The process according to claim 17 wherein the dew point in step i) is 15° C.
19. (Original) The process according to claim 17 wherein the coated potassium chloride granules of step iii) are essentially free of surfactants or processing aids and agents.
20. (Original) The process according to claim 17 wherein the alcohol is methyl alcohol.
21. (Original) The process according to claim 20 wherein the mixture of step ii) is about 10.3% ethylcellulose, 2.1% water and 87.6% methyl alcohol, by weight.
22. (Original) A method of manufacturing ethylcellulose-coated potassium chloride granules comprising the steps of:
 - i) forming a fluidized bed of potassium chloride crystals,

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- ii) spraying the fluidized crystals with a mixture consisting of ethylcellulose, alcohol, and sufficient water to control the buildup of static charge so as to enable substantially complete coating of the crystals, and
- iii) drying the coated crystals to remove the water and alcohol to provide coated potassium chloride granules.

23. (Original) The method of claim 22 wherein the coated potassium chloride granules of step iii) are essentially free of surfactants or processing aids and agents.

24. (Original) The method of claim 22 wherein the mixture of step ii) comprises 0.5 – 2% water, by weight.

25. (Original) The method of claim 22 wherein the alcohol is methyl alcohol.

26. (Original) The method of claim 25 wherein the mixture of step ii) is about 10.3% ethylcellulose, 2.1% water and 87.6% methyl alcohol, by weight.

27. (Cancelled)

28. (Cancelled)

29. (Cancelled)

30. (Cancelled)

31. (Previously presented) A process to produce a pharmaceutical dosage unit in tablet form, the dosage unit comprising ethylcellulose-coated potassium chloride granules, the method comprising the steps of:

- i) forming a fluidized bed of potassium chloride crystals;
- ii) spraying the fluidized crystals with a mixture consisting of ethylcellulose, alcohol and water sufficient to coat the crystals;
- iii) drying the coated crystals to remove the water and alcohol to provide coated

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potassium chloride granules; and

iv) compressing a plurality of coated potassium chloride granules into a tablet to yield the pharmaceutical dosage unit.

32. (Previously presented) The process according to claim 31, wherein the tablet further comprises a compression aid and a disintegrant.

33. (Previously presented) The process according to claim 32, wherein the compression aid comprises microcrystalline cellulose, and the disintegrant comprises croscarmellose sodium.

34. (Previously presented) The process according to claim 31, wherein the tablet comprises, by weight:

about 75.3% potassium chloride;

about 15.5% ethylcellulose;

about 8.7% microcrystalline cellulose; and

about 0.5% croscarmellose sodium.

35. (New) The process according to claim 31, wherein the tablet contains 10 mEq potassium, 15 mEq potassium, or 20 mEq potassium provided by the potassium chloride crystals.

36. (New) The process according to claim 31, wherein the ethylcellulose has a viscosity between 18 and 22 centipoise.

37. (New) The process according to claim 17, wherein the ethylcellulose has a viscosity between 18 and 22 centipoise.

38. (New) The method of claim 22, wherein the ethylcellulose has a viscosity between 18 and 22 centipoise.